

Good afternoon,

I was very disappointed to read that the environmental committee is considering HB5295, a bill of that allows factory-like keeping and slaughtering of rabbits.

As a biologist and also an animal rescuer, I have rescued and adopted several rabbits intended as meat rabbits. The conditions in meat rabbit facilities are typically deplorable and contrary to ill-informed beliefs, rabbits are intelligent, are capable of bonding with humans, rabbits, and other animals, and feel emotions such as fear and pain.

Paving the way for easy raising and killing of rabbits is taking a step backwards. All over the U.S., we are tightening up the pet industry, demanding better conditions from dog breeders, but are considering farming rabbits like factory items when rabbits are also pets? How are pet rabbits any different from meat rabbits? They aren't and many rescued meat rabbits make wonderful pets.

Below, I'm including a picture of my rescued meat rabbit, Sparkles, and my bird, who loves her. I've had her for over 7 years. Bunnies like her deserve more than to be treated like disposable animals for someone's profit.

Sincerely,  
Kim Smith

